



Department of State  
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TELEGRAM

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AN: D800085-0051

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 ACDA-12 SES-01 SSM-03 SSN-02  
SPH-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TMS-01 /095 W

-----069961 171305Z /4 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/121

O R 171101Z FEB 80

FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 603

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

REVIEWED by *C.F. Dantz*

( ) RELEASE

☒ EXCISE

☒ DENY

FOI, EO or Pa exemptions

( ) CLASSIFY as

( ) DOWNGRADE TS to

( ) UNCLASSIFIED

☒ DECLASSIFY IN YEAR

( ) UNCLASSIFIED

*(6X1X0X9)*

DATE *2/21/89*

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E.O. 12065: RDS-2/4 2/14/90 (ARCHARD, D.B.) OR-M

TAGS: PK AF UR MOPS PINS

SUBJECT: (C) RUSSIAN TROOPS IN JALALABAD

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SOVIET SOLDIERS HAVE RECENTLY BECOME MORE VISIBLE IN THE JALALABAD AREA OF EASTERN AFGHANISTAN, AND ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES THEY MAY BE ENGAGING IN GROUND MILITARY OPERATIONS. REPORTEDLY THE CONTINGENT OF ABOUT 1,000 WHICH ARRIVED IN EARLY JANUARY WAS AUGMENTED BY MANY OTHERS ON FEB 7 AND 8.

3. I HAVE EARLIER REPORTED ALLEGATIONS THAT SOVIETS HAD PROVIDED ARTILLARY SUPPORT TO AFGHAN ARMY OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST NATIONALIST FORCES AT KAMAC SUBSEQUENTLY, ANOTHER SOURCE SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN IN ACTION AT SURKHRUD AGAIN AS GUNNERS. STILL ANOTHER CLAIMS THAT

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ABOUT 40 SOVIETS WERE KILLED IN ACTION AT SURKHRUD,

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ABOUT FEB 8.

4. A NUMBER OF SOVIET SOLDIERS ARRIVED AT JALALABAD AIRFIELD BY PLANE ABOUT FEB 7, ACCORDING TO TWO SOURCES. ONE SOURCE POSITS NUMBER OF NEW ARRIVALS AT 2,700; THIS STRIKES ME AS IMPROBABLY HIGH. SEVERAL SOURCES AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAS BEEN A BUILDUP OF MEN AND AIRCRAFT AT JALALABAD AIRFIELD. REPORTS ON AIRCRAFT GO AS HIGH AS 50-60 MIGS, 25 MI--2 CHOPPERS.

5. SOVIETS ARE REPORTED TO BE LIVING AT THREE AREAS IN AND AROUND JALALABAD. THESE INCLUDE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AIRFIELD/GARRISON AREA AND SOVIET-SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL PROJECT AT GHAZIABAD, OUTSIDE TOWN. NEW MENTION IS A PARK IN CENTRAL JALALABAD CALLED SHAHI BAGH (KING'S GARDEN). REPORTEDLY, OFFICERS ARE QUARTERED IN BUILDINGS THERE; TROOPS ARE IN TENTS.

6. REPORTED BUILDUP COULD RELATE TO PLANNED COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN AREA. ONE SOURCE/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOLD ME FEB 10 THAT SOME 50 SOVIET-CREATED TANKS HAD BEEN SHIFTED TO BESEIGED GARRISON AT ASADABAD, KUNAR PROVINCE. [REDACTED] SAID HE LEARNED OF ARMORED PRESENCE FROM [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS JUST IN PESHAWAR SEEKING WEAPONS TO USE AGAINST SOVIETS. [REDACTED] SAYS [REDACTED] OBLIGED BY PROVIDING GENEROUS SUPPLY. (2/4)

7. SOVIET SOLDIERS WERE SPOTTED ON KABUL-TORKHAM ROAD FEB 9 ON BOTH SIDES OF JALALABAD BY A REFUGEE WHO SAW TRACKS JUST WEST OF CITY AND TWO SOVIET SOLDIERS, ARMED  
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WITH KALASHNIKOVs, STANDING BESIDE PARKED TRUCK 5 MINUTES EAST OF CITY. ALL SOLDIERS APPEARED TO BE EUROPEANS.

8. ON FEB 10 AMERICAN OVERLAND TRAVELLER SAW KABUL-BOUND MILITARY CONVOY IN SARODI AREA. SOURCE COULD NOT SAY IF SOLDIERS WERE SOVIETS HOWEVER. ASC TRAVELLER SAW NO SOVIETS IN JALALABAD ITSELF; NO TANKS WERE IN CONVOY.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT: DATE OF ABOVE INFORMATION FEB 11 AND EARLIER.

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